

UNCLASSIFIED

RAOUL WALLENBERG

E88FB

Swedish Council of America honors those individuals who have made significant efforts to improve the lives of their fellow men and women by presenting them with the Raoul Wallenberg Award. The Award is named for Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, whose tireless efforts in Hungary at the end of World War II saved thousands of Jews from Hitler's concentration camps and gas ovens.

Raoul Wallenberg was a 32-year-old businessman when the American War Refugee Board visited neutral Sweden and chose him to be their representative in Hungary. The Swedish government cooperated by giving Wallenberg diplomatic status and assigning him in July, 1944, to their embassy in Budapest.

Throughout the last six months of the war, Wallenberg used his diplomatic cover, his boundless energy, and his incredible personal courage to outfox the Germans and their Hungarian Nazi allies. He worked night and day to develop and implement strategems that would save Hungarian Jews from the Nazi's "Final Solution." He developed a special Swedish passport and distributed them to Jews in danger of deportation to concentration camps. He set up protective houses in Budapest and succeeded in housing many Jews in safety.

Wallenberg worked behind the scenes to persuade war-weary German officers and Hungarians in official positions to spare the Jews, in return for leniency from the Allies after the war. His efforts were instrumental in cancelling an Adolph Eichmann-inspired last-minute plan to exterminate 70,000 Jews living in the Jewish ghetto in Budapest.

When the Russians arrived in Budapest they discovered about 120,000 Jews still alive, the largest concentration of Jews to survive in any of the countries conquered or allied with Nazi Germany. Many of these,



perhaps as many as 100,000, owe their lives directly to the rescue efforts of Raoul Wallenberg.

Wallenberg's story has no conclusive ending. He was arrested by the liberating Russian army in January, 1945. Although there were efforts to secure his release, the fate of Wallenberg remains a mystery. The Soviet authorities maintain that he died in prison in 1947. But persistent reports from released prisoners of the Gulag hint that he may still be alive today. Securing his release, or at the very least, a full accounting of what happened to him, is the purpose of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, headquartered in New York City. In October, 1981, Raoul Wallenberg was made a United States citizen by an act of Congress. It is hoped that this will add additional weight to the international effort to gain his release.

**Reprinted from the Great Swedish Heritage Awards Program,
November 14-15, 1986, by courtesy of the Swedish Council of America.**

AMBASSADOR PER ANGER

Raoul Wallenberg's magnificent work in Hungary during World War II would not have been possible without the support and assistance of many of the staff at the Swedish legation in Budapest. One who worked closely with Wallenberg was Per Anger, who served as attaché from 1942 to 1945.

Per Anger was born in Gothenburg, Sweden on December 17, 1913. He obtained a degree in law at the University of Uppsala in 1939 and soon after joined the Swedish Foreign Ministry. He received his first posting to Berlin in 1940 and was transferred to Budapest two years later.

Anger's diplomatic career extended 39 years. After his World War II years in Budapest, Anger served successively in Cairo, Addis Ababa, Paris, Vienna, and San Francisco. In 1970 he was appointed Ambassador to Australia, and in 1976, Ambassador to Canada.

After his retirement in 1979, Ambassador Anger wrote a book about his exploits with Raoul Wallenberg in Hungary. *With Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest* has helped to raise throughout the world the level of consciousness about Wallenberg and his unknown fate. Today, Ambassador Anger is Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Association in Stockholm. He continues to work tirelessly for the release of Raoul Wallenberg from Soviet incarceration, an effort which many thousands of people have joined around the world.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR H H



(X) RELEASE

() DECLASSIFY

2025 RELEASE

() DESTROY

2025

REF ID: A6512